

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 973
By Williams

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Ford Mustang.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those icons which transcend popular culture and become a part of our history and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Ford Mustang is one such icon, which celebrates its 40th Anniversary in April 2004; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Henry Ford II's perceptive senior management began preparations to introduce the Ford Mustang; and

WHEREAS, after eighteen months of development, the introduction of the Mustang countered the absence of an affordable American sports car and provided the American public with the opportunity to own their dream car; and

WHEREAS, the first Mustang was a 1965 model, but it was released early in April 1964 with a price tag of \$2,320.96, roughly half as much as a Chevrolet Corvette in the same year; and

WHEREAS, the Mustang was introduced amid heavy promotions, including a televised "unveiling," a press reveal on the observation deck of the Empire State Building, public attention at the World's Fair in Flushing Meadows, Michigan, a pace car at the 48th Annual Indianapolis 500, and a spot on the big screen in the James Bond movie, *Goldfinger*; the hype was well-merited and Mustang sales soared with U.S. production numbers of 680,989 in 1965; and

WHEREAS, available in hardtop or convertible, the Mustang GT debuted in 1965, featuring improved instrumentation, auxiliary lamps, front disc brakes, GT trim, and polished exhaust tips; and

WHEREAS, the Mustang continued to be "refreshed" annually, adding to the delight of consumers and collectors who gain greater choice in their preferred Mustang; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 1970s, the ponycar maintained its essential design cues while making significant modifications to size, structure, and technology; and

WHEREAS, although the size and shape of the Mustang has been modified over the years, Ford Motor Company has endeavored to remain true to the features that continue to make it so popular with the motoring public; and

WHEREAS, upon the milestone of the 40th anniversary of the Mustang, an important icon of American popular culture, it is fitting for the General Assembly pause to celebrate this historic occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the original muscle car, the Ford Mustang, on the special occasion of its special 40th Anniversary. We also extend our best wishes for the continued success of the Ford Mustang.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.